

Message Text

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73

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 CIEP-02 SCI-06

FEA-02 INT-08 FPC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /134 W
----- 114403

R 282158Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2583

UNCLAS OTTAWA 0251

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION OTTAWA FROM WINNIPEG JAN 25
REPEATED FOR YOUR ACTION

QUOTE

WINNIPEG 28

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRGN CAN US

SUBJECT: ENERGY -REACTION TO FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL ENERGY CONFERENCE

REF: DEPTTEL 004148 JAN 8

1) INTERVIEWED UPON HIS RETURN TO WINNIPEG PREMIER SCHREYER IS
QUOTED IN PRESS AS STATING: A) HE WAS DISAPPOINTED THAT CONFERENCE
FAILED TO ACHIEVE BASIC NATIONAL ENERGY AGREEMENT, BUT PLEASED AT
RESTRAINTS ON OIL PRICE HIKES AT LEAST UNTIL APRIL. CLAIMED
INCREASE ALLOWED FOR SASKATCHEWAN OIL WOULD NOT RAISE MANITOBA
GASOLINE PRICE BY MORE THAN ONE CENT PER GALLON.

B) HE BELIEVED MORE TIME SHOULD HAVE BEEN DEVOTED TO DISCUSSION
OF THE HYDRO ELECTRIC DEVELOPMENT. WAS ENCOURAGED TO NOTE GENERAL
ACCEPTANCE BY ALL PROVINCES ON CONCEPT NATIONAL GRID
SYSTEM. PREMIER DAVIS OF ONTARIO PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN
EXTENDING GRID BECAUSE OF ONTARIO'S INCREASING DEPENDENCE ON U.S.

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FOR EXTRA ELECTRIC POWER. MANITOBA NOW CONCENTRATING ON EXPANDING

ELECTRIC POWER SALES TO U.S.

C. HE SAW NOTHING WRONG IN CONCEPT OF EXPORT TAX UPON HYDRO POWER. AGREEMENT ON CONSISTENT EXPORT TAX FOR ALL FORMS OF ENERGY WOULD BE MORE REASONABLE THAN GRASPING ATTITUDE NOW PREVALENT WITH OIL. (MANITOBA SELLS LIMITED AMOUNTS OF ELECTRICITY TO BOTH SASKATCHEWAN AND ONTARIO).

2) IN BLISTERING EDITORIAL ENTITLED OIL FOR VOTES WINNIPEG TRIBUNE SCORED TRUDEAU AND LIBERALS FOR PLACATING EASTERN CANADA WITH LOWER OIL PRICES TO WIN VOTES ON IN ONTARIO - QUEBEC. INSTEAD OF CONCERN FOR DEVELOPING NATIONAL ENERGY POLICY, EDITORIAL SAID CONFERENCE TURNED OUT TO BE NOISY HASSLE OVER PRICE OF OIL. WHY? BECAUSE IF OIL PRICE ALLOWED TO RISE IN EAST, INVESTORS MIGHT START TO LOOK TO WEST AS SITE FOR NEW PLANTS. THIS COULD CORRECT REGIONAL DISPARITIES, BUT WITH GOVERNMENT BARELY HANGING ONTO POWER, QUEBEC VOTES COME FIRST.

3) LOCAL GENERAL MANAGER OF ESSO IMPERIAL SAID WINNIPEG REFINERY WOULD TRY TO INCREASE ITS PURCHASES OF CRUDE OIL FROM ALBERTA AND CUT BACK SASKATCHEWAN OIL PURCHASES BECAUSE OF NEW HIGHER PRICE FOR LATTER.

KELLY UNQUOTE SCHMIDT

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